



**DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION
OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL**

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Date: July 13, 2018

Attachment 3

To: Ronny J. Coleman, Chairman
Statewide Training and Education Advisory Committee
c/o State Fire Training

From: Andrew Henning, Division Chief

Subject/Agenda Action Item: Steering Committee Staff Report

Recommended Actions: Information/Discussion

Background Information:

The Steering Committee was formed in the Spring of 2017 and is comprised of the following Stakeholder Groups: California State Training Officers Section (North and South), California Fire Technology Directors Association (North and South), Accredited Local Academies (ALA) (North and South), California Professional Fire Fighters, and a CAL FIRE. At the March 2018 STEAC Meeting a list of issues was presented.

Analysis/Summary of Issue:

The following are the SFT Staff recommendations for each of the items requested:

1. ARTP Collaboration

Staff will work on an Information Bulletin on how local departments can collaborate with their local ARTP for Fire Fighter I written and skills testing. California Fire Technology Directors' Association (CFTDA) is currently working on this topic as well. SFT Staff will work with CFTDA to ensure that work is not duplicated.

2. Firefighter II Prerequisite

SFT proposes to change the Fire Fighter II Course Plan Prerequisite from "Certified Fire Fighter I" to state "Meet the educational requirements for Fire Fighter I." This will allow a combined Fire Fighter I/II academy. All Fire Fighter I training must be completed before the Fire Fighter II curriculum and skill can be taught. See attached draft course plan.

3. Fire Fighter I Skill Retake Allowance

SFT contacted IFSAC and Pro Board to determine if we can modify the retake policy.

Currently SFT allows the following:

- Initial Test/First Attempt
- Initial Test/Second Attempt
- Retake/First Attempt
- Retake/Second Attempt

Most other IFSAC/Pro Board accredited bodies only allow one to two retakes. California currently allows 4. SFT Staff supports making retake policy more restrictive.

Pro Board and IFSAC currently do not have any agencies with different retake models. Pro Board and IFSAC do have different retake models depending on the agency. There are two potential solutions to address this issue:

- Reduce retake allowance
- Develop specific retake allowances for ARTPs and specific retake allowances for ALAs. All ARTPs and ALAs would have to follow their procedures (i.e. an ALA could not use the ARTP procedures)

SFT Staff will work with the ARTPs and ALAs to determine what meets their unique needs. Once a proposed solution is made it will have to be approved by IFSAC and Pro Board.

4. Fire Fighter II IFSAC / Pro Board Accreditation

SFT will be validating a written and psychomotor examination when we revalidate our Fire Fighter I examinations later this year. The new Fire Fighter textbooks are expected to be published later this year based on the soon to be released NFPA 1001.

5. Joint Powers Authority (JPA) becoming ALAs

SFT will not allow JPAs to become ALAs. A JPA would need to work with an ARTP for Fire Fighter I written and skills testing. This will maintain current SFT policy and procedures.

6. ALAs Testing Non-Employees

SFT Staff does not support allowing ALAs to test non-employees. If an ALA has non-employees within their academy, the non-employee would need to go to a ARTP for testing. Another option is for the ALA to partner with an ARTP to oversee the testing. This is currently being done with San Diego Fire Department / Miramar College.

7. Fire Fighter I Written Exam Time Limit

SFT will be implementing a per test question time for the written test when we revalidate the exam later this year. SFT is proposing a 1.2 minute per test question (i.e. 25 questions are allocated a maximum of 30 minutes). When the Wildland and HazMat test are revalidated we will be reducing each test from 30 questions to 25. ALA/ARTPs make reasonable and appropriate accommodations for the written portion of the examination for those persons with a documented disability, as required by the Americans with Disability Act (ADA).

8. Exam Proctors

SFT will research and establish a testing proctor for the written exam. SFT Staff will work with the Steering Committee to generate an interim procedure.

9. Candidate Identification Verification Procedure

SFT staff will work with the Steering Committee to allow a Fire Chief to sign a letter to certify the required Fire Fighter I/II training standards have been completed. An interim procedure will be written for this change.

10. Non-Fire Suppression Personnel taking SFT Courses

The current prerequisites for Company Officer courses is “Meet the educational requirements for Fire Fighter II,” and for Chief Fire Officer courses it is “Meet the educational requirements for Company Officer.” This excludes non-fire suppression personnel from enrolling in these courses. Fire Department’s want to send certain staff to these SFT courses. SFT Staff support this motion and needs additional time to draft a procedure to allow non-fire suppression personnel to enroll in the course.